

Bacon's Castle
Surry County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-75

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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

HABS

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BACON'S CASTLE
Bacon's Castle, Virginia

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Owner:

Date of Erection: c.1660

Architect:

Builder: Arthur Allen

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Three

Materials of Construction: Brick with fine timbered frame.

Other Existing Records: Measured drawings and photographs;
"Domestic Architecture of Tidewater
Virginia", Waterman and Barrows;
"Interiors of Virginia Homes", E. T.
Sale, etc.

Additional Data:

Author: J. T. Galloway

Date: 11/6

Approved: Dec 29, 37

BACON'S CASTLE (Residence)
Surry County, Virginia

Owner: W. P. Warren

Date of Erection: Before 1676

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Arthur Allen

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Basement, two stories and attic

Materials of Construction: The chimneys, exterior and interior basement walls, exterior walls and one interior wall above basement, are built of brick laid in lime mortar.

Roofs are covered with tin.

With the exception of the room in the southwest corner, which has an earth floor, the remaining portions of the basement are floored with irregular sections of 8" x 8" x 2" brick and ordinary brick. The stairs from first floor to basement are gone. The remaining stairs from first floor to attic have a closed string with newels, rail and balusters of poplar.

The flooring of first, second and attic floors is pine on wood joists, which in turn are supported on heavy wood beams.

In the west room, first floor, the west or fireplace wall is panelled from floor to ceiling, and the other three walls have a panelled wainscot. The walls above wainscot and the ceiling between exposed beams are plastered, with a small wood cornice around the room.

In the east room, first floor, all four walls are panelled from floor to ceiling with a small wood cornice around room and a plastered

ceiling between the exposed beams. This panelling is evidently of a later date than the house.

The second floor rooms have plastered walls and plastered ceiling between the exposed beams.

The walls and ceilings of halls and the walls of attic are plastered, the roof construction being exposed.

Other Existing Records: None known

Additional Data: At some date not known a two story brick addition was built on the east end of the original house, with a two story porch on the south front. Probably at the same time wood cornices were added at the eaves and south gable of the original building, and portions of the south wall stuccoed. The brick belt course on the front of the south projection has been chipped off probably at the same time to present a smooth surface for the stucco. While the stucco covers up any evidence, it is believed that the entrance door was on the front of the south projection where there is now a window and that it was moved to its present position when the porch was built. The north window in the west wall of the first floor was inserted by the present owner when he removed a small frame addition, and it is believed there were originally no windows in this wall except in the attic. Similarly it is believed none existed in the east wall and that the doors were cut when the addition was made.

In the brickwork of the north wall there are evidences in the brick that windows have been moved and other minor alterations made.

One of the diagonal chimney shafts on the west end has been rebuilt with a brick of different color and texture from the rest of the brickwork.

None of the original window frames and sash exist but have been replaced with double sliding sash windows.

The original brickwork was laid in English bond and showing variations in bond and though it shows a lack of uniformity in surface due to minor alterations and repairs, the brickwork remains sound and in good condition.

The fine old brick mansion in the lower part of the County, known as "Bacon's Castle",

was built by Arthur Allen, ancestor of the Claremont Allens, in 1655. It was referred to as "Allen's Brick House".

During Bacon's Rebellion, Major William Rookings, Lieutenant Robert Burgess and Captain Arthur Long, followers of Bacon, seized this house of Allen's and made a fort of it. It was thereafter known as "Bacon's Castle", "Castle" meaning fort.

On the 29th of December, 1676, a fight occurred here between Bacon's followers and men from the British ship "Young Prince" lying in the James River. Captain Robert Morris of the "Young Prince" claims to have carried the fort.

In the County records we find depositions made in 1677, which tell of the seizure of Allen's house and the behavior of the "Rebel Crew" while there.

At the time of the War between the States, "Bacon's Castle" was owned by Colonel John H. Hankins. His son, James D. Hankins, was captain of the Surry Light Artillery, C. S. A. (Reference: Old Surry, by A. W. Bohannon, 1927).

Bacon's Castle was built by Arthur Allen, who came to Virginia from England in 1648.

The house was built about 1660. Arthur Allen died in 1670, leaving the plantation to his son and heir, Major Arthur Allen.

During Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 the house was seized and fortified and used as a stronghold by a party of Bacon's adherents, commanded by William Rookings and was held for nearly four months.

Major Allen was in sympathy with the royal cause, and for this reason the rebels seized his home, and we find in the records of Surry County, July 3, 1677, that Major Arthur Allen sued Mr. Robert Burgess, "for that during the late most horrid Rebellion he with others did seize and keep garrison in the plt's house neare fower months.

Upon the death of Major Allen in 1710 it passed to his son, Arthur, who died in 1725, leaving an only son, James, upon whose death it was inherited by his sister, Katherine, wife of Benjamin Cocke. (Historic Shrines of Virginia - W. E. Carson).

Major Allen died in 1710, and the estate passed to his son Arthur, who died in 1725, leaving an only son and heir, James, upon whose death it was inherited by his sister, Katherine, wife of Benjamin Cocke.

In 1802 Allen Cocke left Bacon's Castle to his sister, Mrs. Bradley. After passing through the hands of several other owners it was bought by Mr. William A. Warren, of Surry, who gave it to the present owner, his son, Mr. Charles Walker Warren, as a wedding gift. This seems most fitting, for the bride was Miss Pegram, daughter of Mr. Blair Pegram, of Surry, and is related to the Allens, Cockes and other former owners of the old "Castle". (Historic Virginia Homes and Churches; Robert A. Lancaster, Jr. - 1915)

The present owner of the property is Mr. W. P. Warren,
Smithfield, Virginia.

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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Author: Eugene Brodsky.

Approved: W 11/30/40

Addendum to
Bacon's Castle (Allen's Brick House)
.1 mile north of State Route 617,
.5 mile northeast of intersection
with State Route 10
Bacon's Castle vicinity
Surry County
Virginia

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM TO:
BACON'S CASTLE
State Route 617
Bacon's Castle Vicinity
Surry County
Virginia

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20001